THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Work relating to booking of money orders in the post offices located in Punjab particularly in Ludhiana has been generally going on smoothly. In a few post offices namely Focal Point Millerganj, Central Post Office, Hero Nagar, Janta Nagar and Moti Nagar located in the Industrial area of Ludhiana City, rush of money order booking is observed on some specific days of the month, but the customers do not have to wait for long. However, instructions have been issued to the concerned Sub Postmasters to open additional counters are these post offices for booking of money orders during such peak days of the month. There is no proposal to open new post offices exculusively for booking money orders at Ludhiana.

(c) There are 47 departmental post offices at present in Ludhiana City Division and all are authorised to book money orders.

Functioning of telephone system in North Sikkim

1304. SHRI KARMA TOPDEN: Will the Minister OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone system in the North District of Sikkim has not been functioning properly;

(b) whether this poor functioning is due to the insufficient technical staff posted at North Sikkim, a predominantly tribal area; and

(c) if so, why is it that North Sikkim which is the remotest part of the State not manned like the other three districts with the posting of a Sub-Divisional Engineer, Telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

महानगर टेलीफोन निगम के नए कार्यालय का एक नए भवन में स्थानांतरण

1305. **श्री रामजीलाल:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 22 सितम्बर, 1998 के "राष्ट्रीय सहारा" में प्रकाशित "लेट लतीफी से एम०टी०एन०एल० को 27 करोड़ की चपत" शीर्षक समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ग) उन कार्यालयों के नाम क्या हैं जिन्हें नवनिर्मित भवन में स्थानान्तरित किया जाना था तथा किस की अनुमति से ये कार्यालय पुराने भवन में काम कर रहे हैं; और

(घ) लोधी रोड में इस नए भवन के निर्माण के बाद से अब तक एम०टी०एन०एल० द्वारा किराए के रूप में कितनी धनराशि का भुगतान किया गया है; और इन कार्यालयों को कब तक नए भवन में स्थानान्तरित कर दिया जाएगा?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कबीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ): (क) जी हां।

(ख) सी जी ओ कॉम्प्लेक्स का टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज भवन तैयार नहीं है। फिलहाल, उक्त भवन का कुछ हिस्सा ही टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है।

इस भवन के आस-पास झुग्गियां हैं। इन झुग्गियों के पुनर्वास के बाद स्थानीय निकायों से, अग्निशमन संबंधी अनापत्ति-पत्र, बिजली व्यवस्था, निर्माण कार्य पूरा होने संबंधी प्रमाण-पत्र तथा भवन में प्रवेश की अनुमति ली जानी है। एम० टी० एन० एल०, दिल्ली द्वारा एम सी डी, दिल्ली को पुनर्वास प्रभार अदा कर दिए गए हैं।

(ग) ऐसे कार्यालयों के नाम नीचे दिए गए हैं जिन्हें शिफ्ट किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है:

1. प्रधान महाप्रबंधक (विकास)
2. महाप्रबंधक (मध्य)
3. महाप्रबंधक (पीएम-एस)
4. महाप्रबंधक (पीएम-एन)
5. महाप्रबंधक (एम एम)
6. महाप्रबंधक (कार्यबल)
7. मुख्य अभियन्ता (बी डब्ल्यू)

8. निदेशक (ए टी) टी एण्ड डी सर्किल

चूंकि नया भवन तैयार नहीं है, अतः अभी उक्त कार्यालयों को नए भवन में शिफ्ट करने के लिए नहीं कहा गया है।

(घ) उपर्युक्त भाग (ख) के उत्तर को देखते हुए, किराए के भुगतान का प्रश्न नहीं उठता। भवन निर्माण कार्य पूरा होने तथा नगर निगम प्राधिकारियों से अनापत्ति तथा अनुमति प्राप्त होने के तुरन्त बाद प्रस्तावित कार्यालयों को नए भवन में शिफ्ट किया जाएगा।

Export of software

1306. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to increase the export of software;

(b) if so, the achievement made in that regard during the last three years; and

(c) the year-wise details thereof alongwith the projection till the end of 2000 AD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The software exports during last three years and targets upto the year 2000 are given below:

Year	(Rs. in crores)
Achievements	
1995-96	2,550
1996-97	3,700
1997-98	6,500
Targets	
1998-99	9,250
1999-00	14,600
2000-01	23,100

Indian Reaction to us attack on Afghanistan/Sudan

1307. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the bomb-attacks by the United States on Afghanistan and Sudan in August this year, to allegedly crush terrorism; and

(b) if so, what was Government's reaction to this act of outrage and grave disturbance of world peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government have seen US statements that the USA air strikes carried out in August this year were directed against terrorist targets.

(b) India has consistently condemned international terrorism and expressed its shock and sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent lives which it leads to. It is an issue of particular concern to us, as India has itself been a victim of State sponsored, cross-border terrorism in its most heinous form.

It is our view that to tackle the menace of international terrorism what is required is not selective unilateral action, but a meaningful international cooperation to identify and act against those responsible for international terrorism—whether individuals, terrorists groups or States.

Steps to mobilise world opinion on Pak-sponsored Terrorism

1308. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US and UK Governments and their respective press have observed that Pakistan is training militants, including the Afghans, Pakistanis and Arabs to fight a proxy war in Kashmir and other parts of India and South Asian Sub-Continent including Afghanistan and Iran; and

(b) if so, what steps, if any, were taken by the Prime Minister and his team during their visit to New York in connection with UN General Assembly Session last September, to mobilise world